



NEWS RELEASE

**Town of Culpeper
400 S. Main Street
Culpeper, VA 22701**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 2, 2016

Brandy Road Water Distribution Service Disruption

At about 9:00 am Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the Town of Culpeper Water and Sewer Department became aware of a water quality issue in the area of Brandy Road, north of the intersection with Bradford Road and Braggs Corner Road. Town staff was flushing a hydrant and noted that the water was dark and had an odor of a solvent. Town staff investigated and found that antifreeze in a sprinkler system had apparently flowed back into the water distribution system from a business located in the same area. The antifreeze was identified as a propylene glycol product.

Propylene glycol is a nonhazardous liquid used for many purposes in household and business products. It is water soluble and has no known adverse effects on human health. However, the Town distributed notices door-to-door in the area not to drink the water or cook with it. The Town is distributing bottled water to affected residents and businesses.

Based on initial investigation, it is believed that the resulting backflow and release of this chemical into the public water distribution system was confined to a small area north of the Town along Brandy Road. Town water utility staff are flushing the water distribution lines affected to remove any residual contamination that may have entered the public water lines. We expect the situation to be fully back to normal within 48 hours.

The Town has a backflow prevention ordinance in place that should have prevented the sprinkler system from allowing water to flow back into the water distribution system. The Town is working with Culpeper County and the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water in investigating how this incident occurred despite the legal requirements for backflow prevention.

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